

ORIGINAL

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



0000168175



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Saguaro National Park  
3693 South Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson AZ 85730

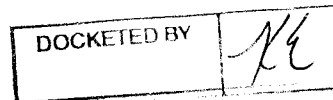


February 1, 2016

Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**

FEB 01 2016

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Commissioners Wing  
1200 W. Washington - 2nd Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007



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AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL  
2016 FEB 1 PM 4 32

Reference docket number: L-00000YY-15-0318-00171

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this letter regarding the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the SunZia transmission project through the San Pedro River Valley. Per previous correspondence (August 29, 2012) regarding this project, the National Park Service has concerns about potential impacts to the Rincon Mountain (East) District of Saguaro National Park (SNP) relating to this alignment.

Specifically, we are concerned about the incremental fragmentation of the relatively undisturbed riparian habitat outside of the eastern boundary of SNP. Construction, presence and maintenance of power line structures and the utility ROW have the potential to impair the ecological function of the San Pedro River Valley, and the natural resources that area shares with the park. Impacts to wildlife from disrupting their movement corridors, and to vegetative communities, particularly sensitive riparian habitat, from habitat fragmentation may lead to the cumulative degradation of these lands that provide ecological services and human benefit. In addition, the park is concerned about negative impacts to viewsheds from the Saguaro and Rincon Mountain Wilderness Areas, and the introduction and spread of invasive, non-native plants.

Please consider these sensitive and irreplaceable resources when determining the siting of this project.

Sincerely,

For  
Darla Sidles  
Superintendent